

axial open ends of the member, the circumferential wall and the pair of circumferential flanges forming at least one circumferential channel on an inner circumferential side of the member; and

A₁
(contin.) a coating of dry powder lubricant on at least the inner circumferential side of the pair of flanges of the member.

5. (Amended) A ferrous pipe coupling comprising:

a ferrous collar having an outer, axially extending, axially split circumferential wall with at least one pair of adjoining circumferential ends at the split;

at least one fastener releasably securing together the at least one pair of adjoining circumferential ends of the collar;

A₂ a gasket in the form of a generally tubular, one-piece elastomeric member positioned in the collar and having an exposed inner circumferential side exposed in the collar, the inner circumferential side having at least one flange that forms a seal with a pipe; and

a coating of dry powder lubricant on at least the exposed, inner circumferential side of the elastomeric member.

10. (Amended) A ferrous pipe system comprising:

a plurality of ferrous piping components; and

A₃ at least one ferrous pipe coupling mechanically and fluidly joining together ends of a pair of the piping components at a joint;

the ferrous pipe coupling including a ferrous collar having an outer, axially extending and axially split, circumferential wall and at least one pair of adjoining circumferential ends at the split;

the ferrous pipe coupling further including a gasket in the form of a generally tubular, one-piece elastomeric member having an inner circumferential side, the inner circumferential side including at least one flange sealingly mounted on the ends of the pair of piping components and surrounded by the collar;

A₃
(cancel)
the ferrous pipe coupling further including a coating of dry powder lubricant at least between the at least one flange of the inner circumferential side of the gasket and the ends of the pair of piping components; and

the ferrous pipe coupling further including at least one fastener releasably securing together a pair of adjoining, circumferential ends of the collar so as to compress the gasket and the collar on the ends of the pair of piping components.

13. (Amended) The coupling of claim 11 wherein the dry powder lubricant comprises an organic starch powder.

14. (Amended) The coupling of claim 11 wherein the dry powder lubricant consists essentially of organic starch powder.

A₇
15. (Amended) The coupling of claim 11 wherein the dry powder lubricant contains as a

primary component, one of cornstarch, rice starch, potato starch, talc and magnesium silicate hydroxide.

16. (Amended) In a ferrous pipe coupling including a generally tubular, one-piece, elastomeric gasket having at least one flange, a ferrous collar surrounding the gasket, the collar including at least one axial split defining a pair of adjoining circumferential ends, and a fastener releasably securing together the adjoining circumferential ends of the collar, the improvement including a coating of dry powder lubricant on at least an inner circumferential side of the at least one flange of the gasket that forms a seal with a ferrous pipe.--

Please add new claims 21-23:

--21. (New) The ferrous pipe coupling of claim 5, wherein the gasket comprises a pair of circumferential flanges formed on the exposed inner circumferential side of the gasket.

22. (New) The ferrous pipe system of claim 10, wherein the gasket comprises a pair of circumferential flanges formed on the inner circumferential side of the gasket.

23. (New) The improvement of claim 20, wherein the dry powder lubricant coats a pair of flanges formed on the circumferential surface of the gasket.--
